Decisions Decisions: Socratic Seminar Notes

Later in the quarter, you will be participating in a Socratic Seminar, a large round-table discussion in which everyone participates and interacts with one another. This discussion will help you to process and illustrate your understanding of the readings and the essential questions for the unit. The questions for discussion are listed below.

Essential Questions (Seminar Topics):	**Instructions:**
1. **What factors influence a decision? In your opinion, which of these factors are most important? Why?** 2. **What power do we have over our own decisions?** 3. **How do/should we judge decisions made by ourselves and others?** 4. **How do our decisions define us? Should they define us?** 5. **Is there a place for emotions (vs. logic) in moral decision making?**	For ***each*** text: - Connect each text to one essential question. You will have 10 notes total, one for each text. - When you decide which question to answer, go to the corresponding page, and compose your note there. - In the left column, add a direct quote from the text that relates to the essential question, and properly cite it. - In the right column, explain *how* or *why* this specific quote helps address the question. - Try to spread the quotes out so you have 2 notes per question. - Generalizations will be completed **during the discussion**. You do not need to do these ahead of time.

Use this checklist to stay organized and up to date with your summative notes.

- Each time you complete a note, place a check mark in the corresponding box.
- Texts are in the Decisions Decisions Anthology unless otherwise noted.
- See sample note on Pg. #3 to guide you as you create your own note.

☑ NOTE 1: "Button Button" (Matheson 103).	☑ NOTE 6: "Fast Car" (Chapman)
☑ NOTE 2: "The One Who Watches" (Ortiz-Cofer 42).	☑ NOTE 7: "The Teenager Leading the Smartphone Liberation Movement Podcast" (Garcia-Navarro) "Two Brains" (Roost) "Seeing the Way" (Kashanie)
☑ NOTE 3: "Playing God" (Sebestyen 14).	☑ NOTE 8: Choose **ONE**: "TLA" (McFann 28); "Facing Donegal Square (Testa 78); "Trapped in the Desert" (Beeman 62); "The Price of Life" (Grim 114) or "Long Walk to Forever" (Vonnegut 70), "13 Concussions" (Cochran)
☑ NOTE 4: Create a note connecting the novel that you are reading to one of the essential questions.	☑ NOTE 9: "Ashes" (Pfeffer) (pg. 88)
☑ NOTE 5: "I'll Never" poem (Moore 122)	☑ NOTE 10: "Seventy-Six Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents" (Alexander)

Your **notes** will be turned into Canvas and graded **as an assessment** using the following rubric.

Socratic Seminar Notes
Quoted Passages (9 points possible) ● I have 10 notes (1 note = both quote and response) total, preferably two per question. ● The quoted passages that I have cited from the readings clearly connect with the corresponding essential question. ● There is some variety in the way the passages I have chosen address the question.
Explanation of Connection to Essential Question (10 points possible) ● My thoughts explaining how the quoted passages connect to the essential question are clearly articulated, and the inferences I make illustrate a strong understanding of how the text relates to the essential question. ● I have made at least 1-2 logical generalizations that synthesize ideas from the stories. Possibilities for Exceeding: ● The insights I make are consistently varied and particularly insightful, showing a deep understanding of the text and its connection to the essential question . ● My generalizations are thorough and varied, illustrating a clear understanding of how the essential question relates to our world.
Punctuation + Citation Form for Quoted Passages (9 points possible) ● Titles are punctuated and capitalized correctly. “Short Stories and Poems Are in Quotes” *Novels Are Italicized* ● Quotes and citations are formatted properly. “Naration. ‘Dialogue’” (Authorslastname 1). ○ Ex: After the father yells at his son, he calms down. “‘Let us have a little talk, first,’ said his father, placing a hand upon Hamlet’s shoulder” (Wilson 136)

If you wish, screenshot your class’s calendar and insert below to keep up with due dates.

Essential Question 1. What factors influence a decision? In your opinion, which of these factors are most important? Why?

Quote from Text -- make sure to include title of reading, a citation (author's last name pg#).	**My thoughts about how this quoted passage relates to the essential question.**
MODEL: "Summer's Choice" "Summer is struggling with school work, and trying to take care of her grandma, and I'm worried she's not going to graduate this year. If you had a choice between going to the art institute and looking after the grandma that rescued you, which would you choose?" (Fulton). [There is no page because this is a video. If it were a written text, it would look like this: (Fulton 23).]	***MODEL:*** The factors that Summer has to consider are how her own hopes and dreams are impacted by her decision, but also the factor of having her family depending on her to help support them, and her feelings of loyalty to them. I think that her own needs are more important because in the long run she might be able to help her family more than without further education. [Notice: Details from the story are used to explain how this passage ties to the question(s). BOTH parts of the question are addressed.]
"Playing God" "'I guess you're going to have to risk it,' Josh said, braced against the gaze" (Sebestyen 27). "Ashes" "No, I just thought maybe you could borrow the money," he said. "Just for a day or two, until I straighten out all my finances. Your mother would never know the difference. Unless there's an earthquake or the Martians invade. I think we can gamble neither of those things will happen before Friday." "You'll be able to pay her back by Friday?" I asked. "You," Dad said. "I'd be borrowing the money from you. And I swear to you, Ashes, I'd have the money in your hands by Friday at the latest" (Pfeffer 97).	The kid was tired of his parents not believing in him and he felt like a puppy was a way to show he can handle things and also a way he could stand up to his parents. Some of the factors that influenced Ashes to go along with 'borrowing' her mom's money for her dad were that he kind of guilt tripped Ashes. Also the fact of Ashes wanting to believe her dad was going to do something good with it, that he would for sure be able to get the money to replace the stuff he 'borrowed'.

Generalizations (**fill this out during end of unit discussion**): (Conclusions you can draw about the question as it relates to the real world based on your answers and the discussion).

Many different factors can influence a decision, no one reason could be the reason someone did something.

Essential Question 2.What power do we have over our own decisions?

Quote from Text -- make sure to include title of reading, a citation (author's last name pg#).	My thoughts about how this quoted passage relates to the essential question.
"The One Who Watches" "I walk faster and faster until I am running and the world is going by so fast that I can't tell what anyone else is doing" (Cofer 49).	Doris had power over her decisions because she was finally able to get/run away from Yolanda.
"i'll never" "I'll never/understand why/thompson didn't/ shoot that big/timber wolf down" (Moore 123).	The person decided to not shoot the wolf on his own decision.
"TLA" "'No Jake,' I said, pulling back a step back. 'I have to stay for a while longer. I have to smell the honeysuckle. I have to grow a little more. For you. And for me'" (McFann 37).	The girl had the power over herself to not jump over the cliff and commit suicide. I think why is because in her mind, she realized that her boyfriend would want her to be alive.

Generalizations **(fill this out during end of unit discussion):** (Conclusions you can draw about the question as it relates to the real world based on your answers and/or discussion).

We have power in most situations but we might not believe it because we're scared, peer pressured, or just used to following and not making our own decisions.

Essential Question 3. How ***do/should*** we judge decisions made by ourselves and others?

Quote from Text -- make sure to include title of reading, a citation (author's last name pg#).	**My thoughts about how this quoted passage relates to the essential question.**
The person decided to drop out of school to help their dad because their mom wanted them to (Chapman).	I feel like we are sometimes allowed to judge others decisions depending on what it was but also not criticize that decision to much. The way I would judge this decision is depending on how old they were, what schooling they had, and how bright their future was.

Generalizations **(fill this out during end of unit discussion):** (Conclusions you can draw about the question as it relates to the real world based on your answers and/or discussion).

I don't think that we have the right to judge others because everyone makes mistakes and you don't know what influenced them to make a decision.

Essential Question 4. How do our decisions define us? Should they define us?

Quote from Text -- make sure to include title of reading, a citation (author's last name pg#).	**My thoughts about how this quoted passage relates to the essential question.**
Cherub: Mission 3: Maximum Security A man tried to kill a ten-year old girl by first suffocating her and then it looked like he was going to stab her or something. He didn't get to killing her. She kicked and bit him and then knocked him unconscious (Robert Muchamore).	I don't believe the girl should be judged or considered bad for hurting the old man like that because what she was doing was self-defense and not wanting to be killed. The old man I feel like should be considered bad/evil or at least slightly one of these because he was attempting to murder a ten year old girl who did nothing to him.
"Seventy-Six Dollars and Forty-Nine Cents" *"Kids these days. If they just studied/instead of playing those video games,/maybe they'd be better prepared. Mitosis and DNA. Easy stuff,/ if you bothered to study."* (Alexander 178)	I think the decision should define him a little bit because it may have been a little reckless/ irresponsible/impulsive to read his teacher's mind (but also nice because he helped his classmates get out of a hard test).

Generalizations **(fill this out during end of unit discussion):** (Conclusions you can draw about the question as it relates to the real world based on your answers and/or discussion).

I think that depending on what the action is and how many times you do it. What I mean is that if someone continuously kept hurting or killing others not in self defense, they should be considered bad. If you do something bad but was in self defense you should know they entire story.

Essential Question 5. Is there a place for emotions (vs. logic) in moral decision making?

Quote from Text -- make sure to include title of reading, a citation (author's last name pg#).	**My thoughts about how this quoted passage relates to the essential question.**
"Button Button" "That I'd like for *us* to go to Europe. Like for *us* to have a cottage on the island. Like for *us* to have a nicer apartment, nicer furniture, nicer clothes, a car. Like for us to finally have a *baby* for that matter" (Mathewson 109).	The reason that she pressed the button is that her emotion about wanting these things got in the way of her reasonable thinking.
"That was when I was 14. And until I turned 44, I never openly told people I was going blind. I had shame about having this disability" *Seeing the Way:*(Kashanie).	Jason had let his emotions get in the way of logical thinking. He had thought he could just pretend away the fact that he was losing his eyesight. It may have seemed ok in the beginning but he should has used some logic to realize that he should've told people and not of kept it to himself.

Generalizations **(fill this out during end of unit discussion):** (Conclusions you can draw about the question as it relates to the real world based on your answers and/or discussion).

I believe that there should be an equal amount of logic and emotions in a decision before you make that decision. I believe this because if you make a decision based on emotions, it can hurt you in the long term but if you make a decision with just your brain it can hurt you in the short or long term.